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## Programs to Measure and Reduce Inconsistency

The State has in effect the following programs to measure and reduce inconsistency in the application of survey results among surveyors.

The following systems are in place which assist the Department of Health, Health Facilities Division in identifying and minimizing inconsistency in survey applications:

- The quality assurance process developed by Program Development section of Health Facilities Division uses On-Line Survey Certification and Reporting (OSCAR) data system to apply consistency to all regulations and programs. The survey input from surveyors is input into the OSCAR system, a multidisciplinary analysis is used, resulting in feedback which directly affects survey procedures.
- 2. An Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Action (OBRA) Long Term Care workgroup, which consists of surveyors who represent all of the LTC teams meet on a regular basis. The committee receives concerns and questions directly from surveyors, which result in policy decisions for the Health Facilities Division. Feedback is taken to all staff and improves consistency in survey.
- 3. The training section has preceptor and check list criteria established to standardized the survey process for new employees. Updates in training are held as mandated by Health Care Financing Administration, ie., new procedures and regulations, to keep the survey process current for all surveyors.
- 4. There are team supervisors who interact directly with the surveyors on specific issues, such as review of deficiency lists, Plan of Correction review and approval, and related survey processes. There are program administrators who supervise surveyors by program and deal directly with specific regulations and consistency issues.

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